

The Committee's Charge

"The Federal Advisory Committee on the Future of VA Long-Term Care shall advise the Office of the Under Secretary for Health on VA's current and anticipated needs for long-term care in an era of no-growth budgets in VA medical care, and on the adequacy of VA's present and planned programs for addressing these needs. The Committee shall use the year 2010 as the planning horizon."

—Kenneth W. Kizer, MD, MPH, Under Secretary for Health, November 1996

In March of 1997, the Under Secretary for Health convened a panel of national leaders and experts in long-term care to evaluate current VA long-term care programs and expenditures, review future needs, and develop a strategy for meeting those needs. For this report, the Committee reviewed nursing home, enriched housing, and home- and community-based post-acute and long-term care services.

relevant background information, trends in expenditures, and program usage. This is followed by a summary of the implications of making no changes to services. A set of specific recommendations closes each section.

See Appendix B for a list of all recommendations, arranged by subject.

What is our ongoing obligation to patients who have been provided long-term care by VA for extended periods?

Specifically, the Committee was charged with evaluating current and future programs in four major areas: access and equity; service delivery; VA long-term care in the context of the overall VA healthcare system; and long-term care investment.

See Appendix A for the full list of questions the Committee addressed.

The Organization of This Report

The following report has been organized into several sections dealing with various aspects of VA long-term care delivery, funding and spending, and future service needs of veterans. Each section begins with